

# OUT & About



The Pacific Region  
Outreach Newsletter



## Theme: Indigenous People

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**Upcoming Themes:**  
Winter — Grants  
Spring — Public Use  
Summer — Water  
Fall — Land Protection

## Forest Plan Sparks Partnership

*Service and Tribes collaborate on restoration projects*

By Alan Wetzel

The letter opened with "It's Done! I should build a "thank you" form letter for you guys." After constructing a bridge and two fish-friendly culverts, and enhancing habitat for a federally threatened plant, it was gratifying to see our combined efforts recognized and acknowledged by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (Tribes).

Over the past five years, the Service's Oregon State Office has worked hard to promote an active partnership with the Tribes through

the Jobs In The Woods Program and the Endangered Species Act.

The Jobs In The Woods Program, part of the Northwest Forest Plan initiated in 1994, directs the Service to provide employment and training opportunities to former timber community workers in the process of implementing watershed restoration projects on non-federal lands. It's a win-win program that benefits resources and people alike.

Members of the Tribes saw this as an opportunity to get some help in improving fish habitat on tribal lands. Their proposal ranked high in the selection process, in part because of the Tribes' commitment of in-kind and cost-share resources.

The Tribes explained that their project was guided both by economics and their traditional respect for life and living things. Service staff worked hard to be sensitive to these issues throughout



Photo by: USFWS

*Restored stream channel and new bridge  
at Agency Creek*

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## Healing a Maui Reserve

*Native Hawaiians restore flora, fauna, and sacred sites*

By Michael Richardson

Visitors to Maui are often so engaged by the island's beauty that most are unaware that all is not perfect in paradise! Native vegetation in some areas has been sorely degraded by feral animals. In some cases, the damage has occurred at temples and burial sites sacred to Hawaii's indigenous people.

An unusual partnership has formed to reverse this trend in West Maui's 7,500-acre Kahikinui Forest Reserve, located on the southern flank of Haleakala Mountain. The Kahikinui Forest Partnership is the beginning of a multi-generation effort to prevent further degradation and

restore native flora and fauna in the area. Many listed and candidate species will benefit from this project.

The reserve is owned and managed by native Hawaiians, who have united as the Kahikinui Forest Partnership Working Group (KFPWG). Their mission, so simply and powerfully stated, is "To unite all Native Hawaiians and others to share in the vision that the great Ahupua'a (land to sea community) of Kahikinui can be brought back to its former natural splendor, that all its forests (Na Wao) will be protected and restored; that its Temples

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# OUT & About

Out & About is published quarterly for Region 1 Fish and Wildlife Service employees.

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## SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your submissions to **Out & About**. Regular sections in the newsletter are:

Feature Articles  
Case Studies  
Outreach Accomplishments  
Trainings & Workshops  
Announcements  
Q & A  
Letters to the Editor  
Outreach Resources

Articles should be submitted by E-mail or 3-1/2 inch floppy and run 150 to 500 words. Gear writing to newsletter style; avoid technical jargon. Photos welcome. Publication is not guaranteed, though every effort will be made to use submissions.

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## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Spring	April 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	August 15
Winter	November 15

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## REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

# Building Trust

*The key to outreach and Native American relationships.*

By Rick Coleman

*"Fear is the greatest culprit of conflict with Tribes."*

Deborah Juarez,

Washington Governor Gary Locke's Native American Liaison

Trust is a critical element in all communications. The greater the trust between people, the greater the ease in sharing and accepting the full scope of ideas, concerns, hopes, and dreams. Even when there is not agreement, all will still benefit from the open exchange and synergy of thoughts. Trust banishes fear of people, ideas, beliefs, and ways of life different from our own.

What does trust have to do with outreach? Everything! Arriving at shared goals and expectations — a goal of outreach — is impossible without trust.

With Native American issues, trust is also a responsibility. Federal Indian policy and the trust responsibility are derived from the special legal and political relationship between the Tribes and the Federal government. This unique political and legal relationship is rooted in American history. It is often broadly expressed in terms of legal duties, moral obligations, and expectations that arise from that history.

Recent Presidential memoranda and Secretarial orders affirm and outline Interior agency responsibilities to ensure that the trust resources of each tribe and individual Indians are "identified, conserved and protected."

Our relationship, government to government, with each Tribe must be built on both forms of trust. As a federal agency, it is critical that we recognize the unique nature of each of the hundreds of Indian Tribes and reservations. The general rules of Federal Indian law must be applied to facts (and history) differing greatly from tribe to tribe. Tribes also vary in organization and complexity of resource management.

Nevertheless, we share many conservation challenges that would benefit from pursuing a cooperative approach. To achieve this, we must work at understanding their unique perspectives. We must appreciate that their priorities may be different than the Fish and Wildlife Service's.

Fulfilling the purpose of our federal trust responsibility to Tribes challenges us to invest more effort and to be more creative and flexible in building a relationship. It demands that we do good outreach to understand and create shared goals and expectations for our natural resources.

It requires that we build trust.

*Rick Coleman is the assistant regional director for External Affairs.*

## Forest...

Continued from Page 1

the process. The result? A successful working relationship and new fish access to more than 10 miles of fishery habitat.

The success also prompted the Tribes to consider other projects; two more proposals have been successfully completed. Formal watershed restoration agreements have now been signed by the Service and Tribes.

Much of this has been accomplished fairly simply, through site visits, phone calls, letters, faxes, and emails. The Tribes have advertised the projects extensively and promoted Service participation through their website, on-site signage, and tours. The projects are featured on the OSO Jobs in the

Woods website and were further recognized with a framed certificate of appreciation presented to the tribal elders by Anne Badgley, Regional Director, and Benjamin Tuggle, Chief of the Division of Habitat Conservation.

The Tribes' most recent letter closed with "Once again, thank you and we look forward to working with you in the future." It appears that the "future" is now, as more projects are already being developed.

*Alan Wetzel is a fish and wildlife biologist in the Oregon State Office.*